

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2490

E.O. 11652: GDS: 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAF, NATO

SUBJ: EUROPEAN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS

REF: STATE 035169

1. PO/74/54, ENTITLED FORCE IMPROVMENTS PLANNED IN FORCES OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES 1973-1976, HAS NOW BEEN ISSUED IN PROPOSED UNCLASSIFIED VERSION, IF NO OBJECTION IS RAISED BY COB 15 MAY.

2. AS STATED REFERENCED MESSAGE, THIS INFORMATION SHOULD SERVE TO REASSURE THE US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC OF NATO'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS CONVENTIONAL FORCES. WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON PO/74/54 VERSION OF EUROPEAN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS IN NEXT REPORT TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT. TEXT OF LISTING FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

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1. THE MAJOR IMPORVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMOUR/ANTI ARMOUR INCLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF:

-1,550 MAIN BATTLE TANKS OF WHICH OVER 1,000 ARE

LEOPARDS;

-OVER 3,000 OTHER ARMoured VEHICLES, OF WHICH AROUND 1,100 ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS (M-113, ACQUIRED IN THE UNITED STATES), NEARLY 1,000 TRACKED COMBAT RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES OF THE SCORPION TYPE AND SOME 900 MARDER ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS;

-62,000 LIGHT ANTI-ARMOUR WEAPONS (M-74) FROM THE UNITED STATES;

-MODERN MEDIUM AND LONG RANGE ANTI-TANK MISSILE SYSTEMS, AMONGST WHICH ABOUT 750 TOW SYSTEMS PROCURED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND 400 MILAN SYSTEMS;

-80 TANK DESTROYERS.

2. THERE ARE ALSO IMPROVEMENTS IN AIR DEFENCE, WHICH INCLUDE THE PROCUREMENT OF:

-1,600 REDEYE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES (PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES), SOME 70 RAPIER MOBILE LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS (1,000 MISSILES), AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BLOWPIPE LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENCE GUIDED MISSILE SYSTEM;

-35MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS, MOST OF THEM MOUNTED ON A LEOPARD CHASSIS, AND SOME 700 NEW 20 MM GUNS;

-AN ADDITIONAL HAWK BATTALION AND 9 VULCAN BATTERIES.

3. OTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS ARE:

-THE REPLACEMENT OF HONEST JOHN BY THE LANCE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM;

-THE ACQUISITION OF MORE THAN 500 HELICOPTERS AND LIGHT

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FIXED WING AIRCRAFT;

-INCREASES IN AMMUNITION STOCKS.

NAVY

4. DURING THE PERIOD THE FOLLOWING SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT ENTER SERVICE EITHER TO AUGMENT OR REPLACE UNITS IN SERVICE;

3 NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

19 CONVENTIONAL SUBMARINES (INCLUDING COASTAL AND ANTI-SUBMARINE SUBMARINES

8 GUIDED MISSILES DESTROYERS

14 FRIGATES (FOR THE MOST PART FITTED WITH POINT DEFENCE
MISSILE SYSTEMS AND SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE
SYSTEMS AND HELICOPTERS)

39 GUIDED MISSILE FAST PATROL BOATS

3 MINELAYERS

10 SHORE-BASED ASW HELICOPTERS

1 AMPHIBIOUS SHIP (CONVERTED AIRCRAFT CARRIER)

IN ADDITION A NUMBER OF LOGISTIC SHIPS, AMPHIBIOUS UNITS, MINE
COUNTERMEASURE UNITS AND PATROL CRAFT ARE BEING PROCURED.

5. QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

-THE FITTING OF POINT DEFENCE MISSILE SYSTEMS, SURFACE-
TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEMS AND WIRE-GUIDED TORPEDOES
TO CRUISERS, DESTROYERS, MINELAYERS, SUBMARINES AND
FAST PATROL BOATS AT PRESENT IN SERVICE;

-THE MODERNISATION AND IMPROVEMENT IN EFFECTIVENESS OF
A NUMBER OF MINE COUNTERMEASURE VESSELS;

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-ON-GOING PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE ELECTRONIC WARFARE
CAPABILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS BOTH ASHORE AND AFLOAT
IN ALL THE NAVIES.

AIR FORCES

6. EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF THE AIR FORCES
OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE CONTINUING. OVER 400 NEW AIRCRAFT
ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO SERVICE; THESE INCLUDE:

-9 SQUADRONS OF PHANTOM AIRCRAFT IN THE TACTICAL
SUPPORT AND RECONASSANCE ROLES;

-2 SQUADRONS OF BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT IN THE STRIKE/ATTACK
ROLE;

-7 SQUADRONS OF JAGUAR AIRCRAFT IN THE OFFENSIVE
SUPPORT ROLE;

-7 SQUADRONS OF F-104S AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR DEFENCE AND
ATTACK ROLES.

ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT OF THE ABOVE TYPES OR OF TYPES NOW IN

SERVICE ARE BEING PROCURED TO MAINTAIN SQUADRON STRENGTH OR AS BACK-UP.

7. PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO PROVIDING AIR FORCES WITH ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN AN ECM ENVIRONMENT AND TO THE MODERNISATION OF STOCKS OF AIR MUNITIONS. THE NIGHT CAPABILITY OF RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS IS ALSO BEING IMPROVED.

8. AS REGARDS AIRCRAFT AND AIRFIELD PROTECTION:

-THE ACTIVE AIR DEFENCE OF AIRFIELDS IS BEING IMPROVED (FUGRES AVAILABLE ON SURFACE-TO-AID MISSILES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE).
END TEXT. MCAULIFFE

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